

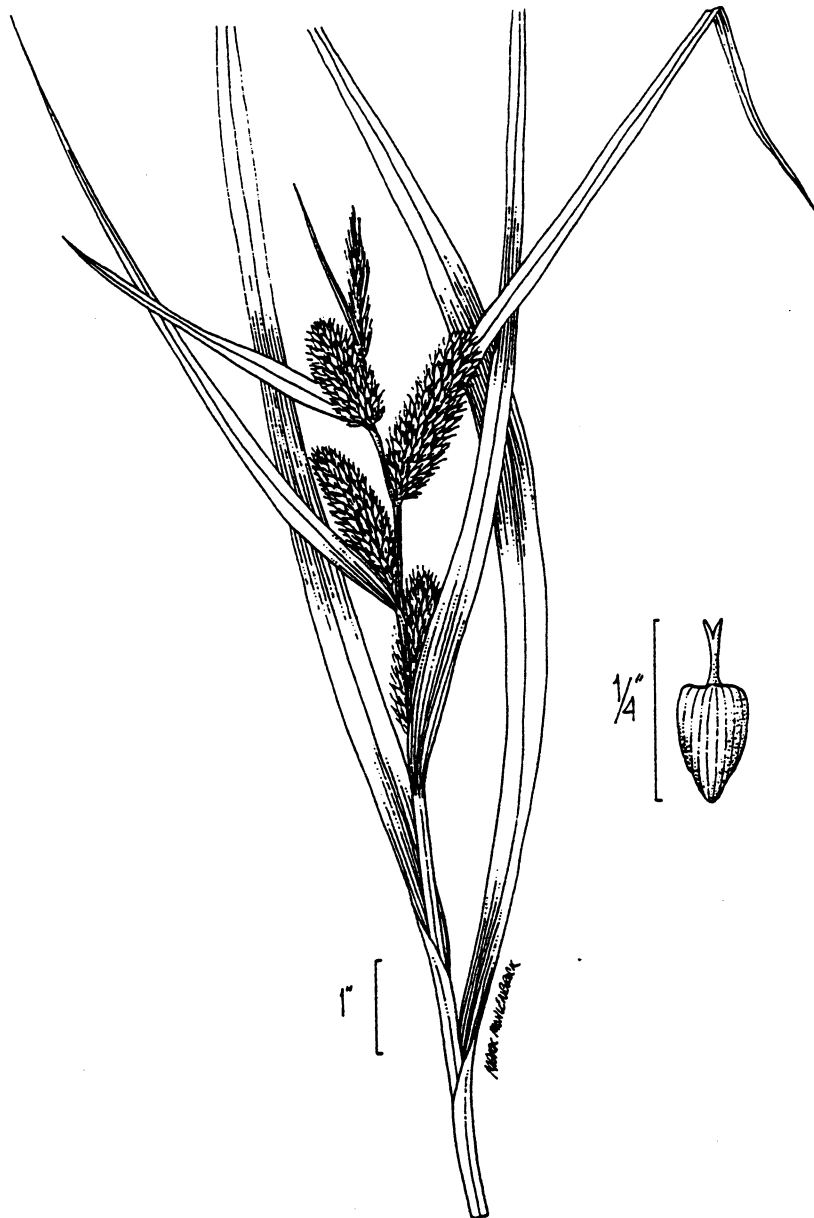
SEDGES

Frank's Sedge
Carex frankii Kunth

Family: Sedge (Cyperaceae)

May-September

Field Marks: This sedge has its cylindrical spikes nestled down among leafy bracts that are 2-4 times longer than the spikes. The male flowers are borne in a separate spike.



Habitat: Swamps, floodplain woods, wet meadows, wet prairies, along rivers and streams, roadside ditches, around ponds and lakes.

Habit: Perennial herb with rhizomes.

Stems: Erect, smooth, up to 2 feet tall.

Leaves: Elongated, narrow, rough to the touch, up to 1/3 inch broad.

Flowers: Male and female flowers borne separately; the male flowers in a narrow, cylindrical spike up to 1 1/4 inches long; the female flowers in 3-6 dense, cylindrical spikes up to 1 1/2 inches long, much surpassed by leafy bracts.

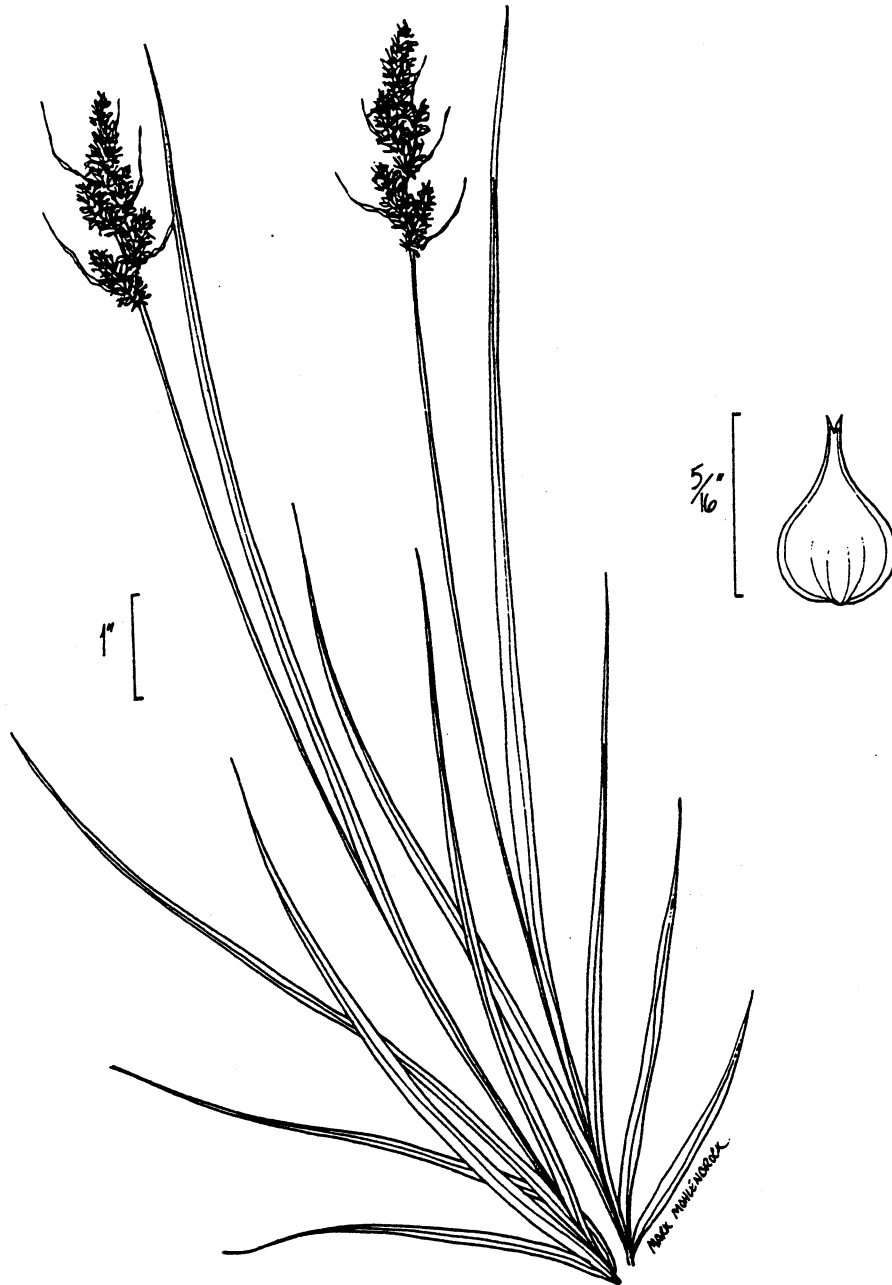
Fox Sedge

Carex vulpinoidea Michx.

Family: Sedge (Cyperaceae)

May-July

Field Marks: Fox sedge has elongated spikes containing 10 or more spikelets, the lowest of which is subtended by a slender, long bract.



Habitat: Along rivers and streams, around lakes and ponds, wet prairies, wet woods, swamps.

Habit: Perennial herb with thickened rootstocks.

Stems: Erect, slender, sharply triangular, rough to the touch, up to 3 feet tall.

Leaves: Elongated, narrow, longer than the stems, smooth, up to 1/6 inch broad.

Flowers: Male and female flowers borne separately; the male at the tips of the female spikelets, with 10 or more female spikelets in a terminal spike up to 5 inches long; the lowermost spikelet subtended by a long, narrow bract.

Chufa Flatsedge

Cyperus esculentus L.

Family: Sedge (Cyperaceae)

July-October

Field Marks: This is the only flatsedge which produces underground tubers at the ends of slender rhizomes. Because the scales of the spikelets do not lie flat, each spikelet appears to be minutely toothed.



Habitat: Wet fallow fields, old fields, wet prairies, along streams, around ponds and lakes.

Habit: Coarse perennial with slender rhizomes and tubers.

Stems: Erect, smooth, triangular, up to 2 1/2 feet tall.

Leaves: Long, narrow, smooth or rough along the edges, 1/3-1/2 inch broad.

Flowers: 1 per scale, with many scales per spikelet, the entire cluster of flat spikelets subtended by 3-9 leaflike bracts.

Sepals: 0.

Petals: 0.

Rusty Flatsedge
Cyperus ferruginescens Boeck.

Family: Sedge (Cyperaceae)

August-October

Field Marks: This *Cyperus* differs by its red-brown spikelets and its orange-brown achenes. It lacks underground rhizomes.



Habitat: Along rivers and streams, around ponds and lakes, in roadside ditches, mud flats.

Habit: Annual herb with fibrous roots.

Stems: Erect, unbranched, smooth, up to 2 feet tall.

Leaves: Mostly near the base of the plant, elongated, narrow, smooth, up to 1/2 inch broad.

Flowers: 1 per scale, with many scales crowded into flat spikelets; the spikelets red-brown, linear, up to 1 inch long.

Sepals: 0.

Petals: 0.

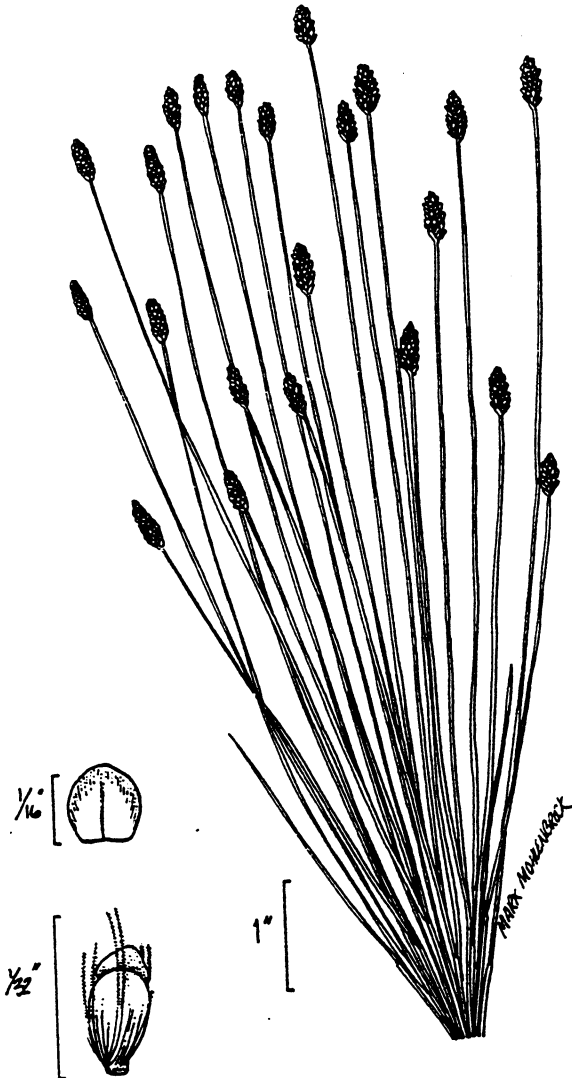
Blunt Spikerush

Eleocharis obtusa (L.) J. A. Schultes

Family: Sedge (Cyperaceae)

June-October

Field Marks: The distinguishing features of this spikerush are the very blunt spikelets up to 1/2 inch long.



Habitat: Roadside ditches, along streams and rivers, around ponds and lakes.

Habit: Tufted annual from fibrous roots.

Stems: Erect, smooth, unbranched, up to 18 inches long.

Leaves: Reduced to sheaths.

Flowers: 1 per scale, with several scales per spikelet, each spikelet ovoid to ellipsoid, rounded or slightly pointed at the tip, up to 1/2 inch long.

Sepals: 0.

Petals: 0.

Scales: Ovate to obovate, usually rounded at the tip, brown, 1/16-1/10 inch long.

Stamens: 3.

Hardstem Bulrush

Scirpus acutus Muhl.

Family: Sedge (Cyperaceae)

May-September

Field Marks: This bulrush is recognized by its nearly round stems, its cluster of spikelets borne laterally along the stem, and its usually 2-cleft style.



Habitat: Along rivers.

Habit: Perennial herb with rather stout rhizomes.

Stems: Erect, not triangular, smooth, up to 8 feet tall.

Leaves: Usually reduced to sheaths near base of stem.

Flowers: Borne in spikelets from the side of the stem near the top, in short-stalked or long-stalked clusters; each spikelet oblong to cylindric, pointed or rounded at the tip, up to 3/4 inch long, reddish.

Sepals: 0.

Petals: 0.

Stamens: 2-3.

Pistils: Ovary superior; styles 2-cleft.

Green Bulrush

Scirpus atrovirens Muhl.

Family: Sedge (Cyperaceae)

May-September

Field Marks: The flower clusters are subtended by several leaflike bracts, the stems are not sharply triangular, and the bristles in each flower are rarely longer than the achenes.



Habitat: Around lakes and ponds, along streams, roadside ditches.

Habit: Perennial herb with short, thick rhizomes.

Stems: Erect, triangular, smooth, up to 4 1/2 feet tall.

Leaves: Elongated, narrow, dark green, rough along the edges, up to 1/2 inch broad.

Flowers: Borne in spikelets with several spikelets in clusters, some of the clusters sessile, others on long stalks, subtended by 2-4 leafy bracts.

Scales: Narrow, tapering to rough awns, up to 1/16 inch long, brown, green-brown, or brown-black.

Sepals: 0.

Petals: 0.

Woolgrass

Scirpus cyperinus (L.) Kunth

Family: Sedge (Cyperaceae)

July-October

Field Marks: Three or more bracts subtend the inflorescence. The spikelets are up to 1/4 inch long and become woolly at maturity because of the elongated bristles.



Habitat: Swamps, sloughs, around lakes, wet woods.

Habit: Robust perennial herbs with rhizomes.

Stems: Erect, smooth, up to 5 feet tall.

Leaves: Flat, elongated, smooth, mostly crowded near base of plant, up to 1/2 inch wide.

Flowers: 1 per scale, with several scales per spikelet, the spikelets up to 1/4 inch long, forming large terminal clusters subtended by 3-6 leaf-like bracts.

Sepals: 0.

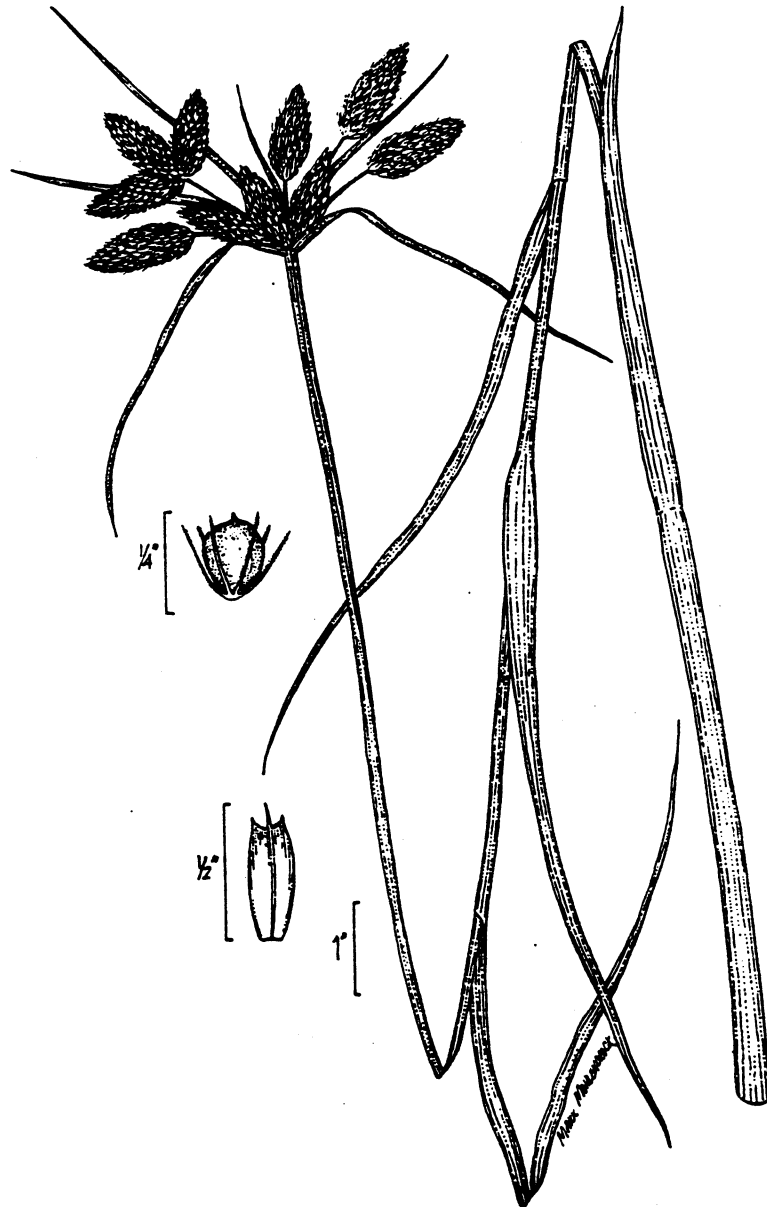
Petals: 0.

River Bulrush
Scirpus fluviatilis (Torr.) Gray

Family: Sedge (Cyperaceae)

May-September

Field Marks: Two or more bracts subtend the inflorescence. The spikelets are up to 2 inches long.



Habitat: Swamps, sloughs, along rivers, around ponds and lakes, often in shallow, standing water.

Habit: Robust perennial herb with rhizomes.

Stems: Erect, triangular, smooth, up to 6 feet tall.

Leaves: Flat, elongated, smooth, up to 1 inch broad.

Flowers: 1 per scale, with several scales per spikelet, each spikelet up to 2 inches long, forming terminal clusters subtended by several leaf-like bracts.

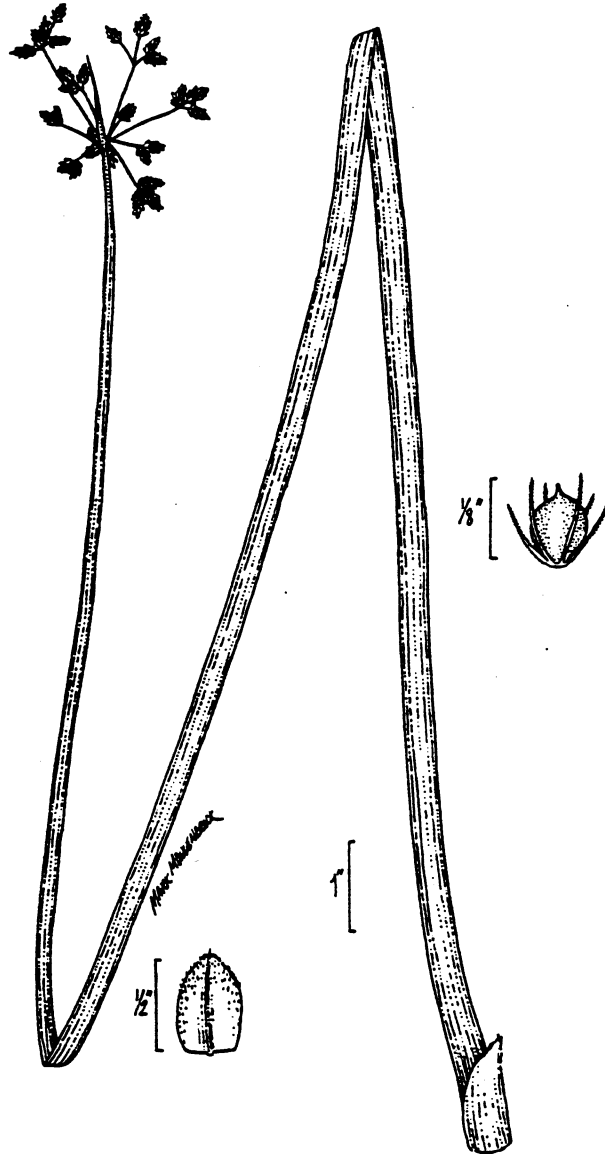
Softstem Bulrush

Scirpus validus Vahl

Family: Sedge (Cyperaceae)

May-September

Field Marks: This tall bulrush has a single bract that is a short continuation of the stem beyond the spikelets. The spikelets have distinct stalks.



Habitat: Sloughs, wet prairies, around lakes and ponds, along rivers and streams.

Habit: Robust perennial herb with stout rhizomes.

Stems: Erect, not triangular, smooth, soft, up to 9 feet tall.

Flowers: 1 per scale, with several scales per spikelet, each spikelet up to 1/2 inch long, forming a cluster near the top of the stem, with one bract that is a short continuation of the stem beyond the spikelets.

Sepals: 0.

Petals: 0.

Scales: Ovate, round-tipped but with a short point, somewhat hairy, up to 1/2 inch long.

Stamens: 3.